

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 1, and cancel claims 3 and 15-20 without prejudice to their presentation in another application.

Claim 1 (currently amended) A modified oligomeric compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4 (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4 and inhibits the expression of Toll-like receptor 4.

Claim 2 (original) The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

Claim 5 (original) The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

Claim 6 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

Claim 7 (original) The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 8 (original). The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

Claim 9 (original) The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

Claim 10 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 11 (original) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4.

Claim 12 (original) A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 13 (original) The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 14 (original) The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 15-20. (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense oligonucleotide that is specifically hybridizable with a 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR) of the nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense oligonucleotide that is specifically hybridizable with a start region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense oligonucleotide that is specifically hybridizable with a coding region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense oligonucleotide that is specifically hybridizable with a stop region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises an antisense oligonucleotide that is specifically hybridizable with a 3'-untranslated region (3'UTR) of the nucleic acid molecule encoding Toll-like receptor 4.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of Toll-like receptor 4 by at least 50%.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of Toll-like receptor 4 by at least 70%.